



GRUCom

January 17, 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

Re: improving Public Safety Communications in the 800 MHz Band, WT Docket 02-55

Gainesville Regional Utilities, (GRU), hereby supports the "Motion for extension of Time" filed on January 13th, 2003 by the Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association (CTIA) requesting an extension of the deadlines for submitting comments and reply comments on the December 24, 2002, "Supplemental Comments of the Consensus Parties."

As described in our earlier comments in this proceeding, GRU is a community owned, multi-service utility located in Gainesville, Florida providing electric, natural gas, water, wastewater and telecommunications services to approximately 80,000 retail and wholesale customers in Alachua County. GRU also owns and operates a 5 site 800 MHz Public Safety Radio System with over 120 base stations that is utilized by over 2400 users from all major Public Safety and Public Service agencies within our county. The continuous uninterrupted operation of this radio system is critical to the ongoing delivery of essential services to over 200,000 residents within Alachua County.

The "Supplemental Comments" filed by the "Consensus Parties" were developed over a period of many months, are over 150 pages in length and must be reviewed in conjunction with the large volume of comment already filed by the "Consensus Parties". The proposals put forth in these comments will have far reaching economic and political implications for all the affected parties in addition to the operational impacts it will impose on law enforcement, fire rescue, critical infrastructure and business concerns. GRU therefore supports CTIA's Motion for Extension of Time, and requests that the Commission extends the comment and reply comment dates by at least four weeks.

Pursuant to the Commission's Rules, one copy of this letter is being submitted electronically through the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System.

Respectfully,

Brad Barber
Senior Telecommunications Specialist
Gainesville Regional Utilities

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